[COMMITTEE PRINT]

FINAL REPORT TO THE SPEAKER

FROM THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PAGE BOARD

PREPARED BY THE STAFF OF THE

HONORABLE JOSEPH G. MINISH, CHAIRMAN,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PAGE BOARD

DECEMBER 11, 1984

45-326 O

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 1985

H962-2

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PAGE BOARD

Members

JOSEPH G. MINISH, New Jersey, *Chairman*
VIC FAZIO, California
JOHN T. MYERS, Indiana
BENJAMIN J. GUTHRIE, *Clerk*
JAMES T. MOLLOY, *Doorkeeper*
JACK RUSS, *Sergeant at Arms*
GEORGE M. WHITE, *Architect of the Capitol*

Staff

ROSALIND M. BLACK, *Staff Assistant, Office of the Doorkeeper*
AILEEN M. FOLEY, *Administrative Assistant, Office of the Doorkeeper*
JAMES A. KUTCHER, *Staff Director and Counsel to the Honorable Joseph G. Minish, Chairman*
MARY ANN PRESKUL, *Secretary, Office of the Doorkeeper*

EDUCATION TASK FORCE

Members

G. WILLIAM WHITEHURST, Virginia, *Chairman*

JAMES T. MOLLOY, *Doorkeeper*
DONNALD K. ANDERSON, *Floor Manager, Majority Cloakroom*
MRS. PHYLLIS BLAUNSTEIN, *Executive Director, National Association of State Boards of Education*
DR. GORDON CAWELTI, *Executive Director, Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development*
JIM OLIVER, *Minority Supervisor of Pages*
DR. SCOTT THOMSON, *Executive Director, National Association of Secondary School Principals*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PAGE SCHOOL

DR. ROBERT F. KNAUTZ, *Principal*
WALTER S. BODLE, *Washington Seminar*
BARBARA R. BOWEN, *Math*
ROBERT S. NELSON, *Science*
STEPHEN STAVROS, *Foreign Languages*
HAROLD TOTTEN, *English*
SHIRLEY ALEXANDER, *Administrative Assistant*

HOUSE PAGE RESIDENCE HALL

JAMES M. TIERI, *Acting Director*
CHARLOTTE F. CRAWFORD, *Proctor*
RUSSELL F. LEDONNE, *Proctor*
MICHELLE SKARBNIK, *Proctor*
THOMAS P. SWEENEY, *Proctor*

PAGE SUPERVISORS

BILLIE E. EASTON, *Majority Supervisor of Pages*
JIM OLIVER, *Minority Supervisor of Pages*
DONNALD K. ANDERSON, FLOOR MANAGER, MAJORITY CLOAKROOM
TIMOTHY J. HARROUN, *Floor Manager, Minority Cloakroom*

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PAGE BOARD,
Washington, DC, December 11, 1984.

THE SPEAKER,
U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: The House of Representatives Page Board, established on November 30, 1982, submits the enclosed volume as its final report on reform of the House Page Program.

The Pages who come to the House of Representatives are entrusted to us by their parents for their education, housing and welfare. This is a special trust.

The House Page Board, since its creation, has taken great strides to honor that special trust. With the full support of the Speaker and the rest of the House Leadership, the most dramatic, and the Page Board believes, the most beneficial changes in the Page Program since it began in the early 1800's have been implemented.

All of the recommendations of the Speaker's Commission have been put in place. Most beneficial are the House Page Residence Hall, which provides our Pages a safe and secure housing facility; and the House Page School, which provides our Pages the quality education they have needed and deserve.

This volume contains a recitation of the additional actions taken to improve the Page Program since the submission of the Interim Report to the Speaker on May 27, 1983.

I would like to thank my fellow Board Members for their great sacrifices and contributions in our effort to achieve a better Page Program.

Mr. Speaker, we are deeply grateful to you for your full and active support throughout our efforts.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH G. MINISH, *Chairman.*

CONTENTS

	Page
Transmittal letter	III
Final Report to the Speaker from the House of Representatives Page Board:	
I. House Page Residence Hall	1
II. Education	1
Education Task Force Report: Criticisms	2
Legislation	2
Summary of H.Res. 234	3
Education Task Force Report: Recommendations	4
House Page School: Improvements and Accomplishments	5
III. Page Revolving Fund	5
IV. Health Care	6
V. Recreational Facilities	6
VI. Concluding Statement	6
VII. Appendix A: H.R. RES. 234, 98th Cong., 1st Sess., 129 CONG. REC. H4756-H4758 (daily ed.) (June 29, 1983)	7
Appendix B: H.R. RES. 279, 98th Cong., 1st Sess., 129 CONG. REC. H5393-H5394 (daily ed.) (July 21, 1983)	12

I. House Page Residence Hall

Renovation of the House Page Residence Hall was completed in the Fall of 1984.

As of December 3, 1984, 53 House Pages (27 females and 26 males) resided there. Senate Pages are permitted to reside in the facility provided there is space and that they comply with the Code of Conduct and any other requirements. As of December 3, 1984, 16 Senate Pages (11 females, and 5 males) resided there.

In March of 1984, the Meal Plan which provides the Pages hot dinner meals Monday through Friday evenings, was transferred from the Senate Restaurant to the House Restaurant so the Pages could eat at a facility closer to the Page Residence Hall. This change was accomplished through the special cooperation and help of Chairman Ed Jones of the Committee on House Administration's Subcommittee on Services.

II. Education

Having provided for the Pages' housing and after-hours supervision by establishing the Page Residence Hall, the Page Board turned to the critical problem of insuring a quality education for the Pages.

For over three decades the Pages had been educated by the Capitol Page School. The school was affiliated with the District of Columbia School System.

The formal education received by the Pages had been criticized by numerous parties for many years, but little, if any improvement had occurred. Consequently, Page education was an important issue in the Speaker's Commission on Pages' deliberations.

Following extensive hearings, the Report to the Speaker from the Speaker's Commission on Pages issued on August 16, 1982, found that:

> Every witness, including the Pages, with whom the Commission met, spoke of deficiencies in the Page School.[1]

The witnesses referred to included Members of the House and Senate and experts in the field of secondary education.

The Page Board also held hearings on March 8 and 10, 1983. All Members of the House were invited to testify. The witnesses included two Members of the House, two Members of the Senate, expert educators, and others. Witnesses at these hearings also seriously questioned the quality of education provided by the Capitol Page School.

---

[1] Staff of the Speaker's Commission on Pages, 97th Cong., 2nd Sess., Report to the Speaker from the Speaker's Commission on Pages 3-4 (Comm. Print 1982).

At the Page Board meeting held on March 22, 1983, the Page Board adopted a Board resolution establishing an Education Task Force to advise the Page Board on educational matters.

The Task Force, for the first time, brought together the leading experts in secondary education: Mrs. Phyllis Blaunstein, Executive Director of the National Association of State Boards of Education; Dr. Gordon Cawelti, Executive Director of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development; and Dr. Scott Thomson, Executive Director of the National Association of Secondary School Principals. The Task Force is chaired by a Member, the Honorable G. William Whitehurst, who is also a distinguished educator, having spent eighteen years in the field of education at Old Dominion University. The Task Force also includes the Doorkeeper, the Honorable James T. Molloy, Donnald K. Anderson, Floor Manager of the Majority Cloakroom and Jim Oliver, Minority Supervisor of Pages.

EDUCATION TASK FORCE REPORT: CRITICISMS

The Page Board asked the Task Force to submit a report by June 1, 1983, on the Page Education Program. The Education Task Force Report (Recommendations for the House of Representatives Page Board CAPITOL PAGE SCHOOL) identified six problem areas including that the selection of students was not rigorous enough, there was poor class attendance, curricular fragmentation, and a lack of a school ethos. In addition, the Page Board was quite distressed that the Page classes' scholastic aptitude test scores had declined to a low of 440 verbal and 460 math for the 1982–83 academic year.

On June 14, 1983, the Page Board met to consider the Task Force Report. The Page Board unanimously approved the report including its recommendations for a new Page Education Program.

The Page Board also took the historic step of unanimously approving a Page Board Resolution to immediately establish an independent House Page School.

The Senate was invited to join in the new school but declined to do so.

The Page Board reached the decision to establish an independent school on the basis that the best and surest way to implement the new Page Education Program and monitor Page education to insure its quality was to establish its own school.

LEGISLATION

House Resolution 234 (98th Cong.)[2] was introduced on June 16, 1983. The resolution was similar to H.R. 3034 (98th Cong.), legislation which was coordinated with the Senate Management Board (the Page Board's counterpart in the Senate) and which was introduced and passed by the House on May 18, 1983.

The Senate never completed action on H.R. 3034.

The provisions of the resolution derive from decisions made at meetings of the Page Board on March 22, and June 14, 1983.

---

[2] See Appendix A.

On June 16, 1983, the resolution was brought to the House Floor under unanimous consent. The Honorable John Dingell objected. The resolution was then referred to the Committee on House Administration. The Committee's Subcommittee on Personnel and Police met on June 22, 1983, considered testimony and then ordered H. Res. 234 as amended, reported favorably to the Committee. The Committee met on June 29, 1983, and ordered H. Res. 234 with an amendment in the nature of a substitute, reported favorably.

On the same day, H. Res. 234, as amended, was brought to the House Floor under unanimous consent.

At issue was whether or not Pages, in spite of the unique requirements of their Page duties, were entitled to a quality academic education, or should forfeit educational opportunity for the undeniably excellent learning experience of being a Page.

The Page Board was convinced the two, Page experience and Page education, need not be exclusive. Rather, the Page Board felt that they should and could coexist and complement each other, and in so doing, provide our Pages with a truly beneficial experience while they were here serving the Members of the House of Representatives.

The House concluded that, indeed, their Pages were entitled to a quality education: H. Res. 234 was unanimously adopted on June 29, 1983, amidst broad bi-partisan statements of support.

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS OF H. RES. 234

(1) The House Page Board shall arrange for educational services for the Pages.

(2) A Page serving during an academic term shall be a junior.

(3) A Page serving during a summer term shall have completed 10th grade, but not begun 12th grade.

(4) The Page Program shall consist of three terms (two terms during the academic year and a summer term).

(5) A Page serving during an academic year shall serve for one or two full terms and may serve for one summer term (maximum service as a Page: 12 months).

(6) An unforeseen vacancy during an academic term may be filled, provided the vacancy exceeds two months.

The Page Board also implemented, by means of House Resolution 279 (98th Cong.),[3] an important recommendation of the Speaker's Commission: to prohibit minor employees of Members or Committees from attending the House Page School. Such minor employees had in the past made Page Education more complex because they were often younger than Pages and were here for only a short time.

H. Res. 279 was considered and agreed to by the House on July 21, 1983.

Between June 29, 1983, and September 6, 1983, the House Page School was established, including hiring a Principal, an Administrative Assistant and six instructors; renovation of the House Page

[3] See Appendix B.

45-326 O - 85 - 2

School facilities located in the Library of Congress; and furnishings of the facilities.

Also, the Page Board adopted a Page Board Resolution on July 28, 1983, which set forth the responsibility for the House Page School, i.e., that the Page Board had overall authority over the House Page School, but delegated certain aspects of its authority to the Education Task Force and through the Task Force, to the Principal.

The House Page School opened, on time, on September 6, 1983.

This tremendous accomplishment is a tribute to the dedication, time and effort of Chairman Whitehurst, Mrs. Blaunstein, Dr. Cawelti, Dr. Thomson of the Education Task Force, as well as the superb work and cooperation of the Architect of the Capitol, the Honorable George M. White and his staff and the Clerk, the Honorable Benjamin J. Guthrie and his Assistant Clerk Stephen S. Duffy.

The Honorable Joe Moakley, Chairman of the House Democratic Personnel Committee and his Staff Assistant Yvonne White and the Honorable John Myers, Chairman of the House Republican Personnel Committee, and his Staff Assistant Carol Goodwillie have demonstrated great cooperation with the Page Board by screening Page applicants to insure they have the required G.P.A. (Grade Point Average) and that they complete a thorough Page application that includes references and a health physical.

EDUCATION TASK FORCE REPORT: RECOMMENDATIONS

In addition, the Page Board implemented the recommendations of the Education Task Force:

(1) Selection criteria of students: increased to a 3.0 (B) G.P.A. (Grade Point Average) to become a Page; increased to a 2.75 (B−) G.P.A. to continue in the Page Program.

(2) Curriculum: for junior year students only and focused on a traditional solid core of subjects.

(3) Chemistry class: a lab chemistry class with the necessary equipment, instead of only a book chemistry class, as before.

(4) Computer education: six microcomputers with word processing packages and printers used for a computer lab in the Page Residence Hall with computer instruction, including instruction from staff of H.I.S. (House Information Systems).

(5) Scheduling of classes: reorganization of class scheduling to provide for class periods of reasonable length.

(6) New curriculum: addition of a Washington Seminar course to provide students the opportunity to become familiar with the vast political, historical and cultural resources in Washington, D.C.

(7) Improvement of instructors: creation of two teaching fellowships in which excellent instructors come to teach for one year at the House Page School and then return to their home schools.

The Page Board succeeded in implementing all of these recommendations during the House Page School's first year.

In addition, there have been other significant improvements in the Page Education Program:

HOUSE PAGE SCHOOL: IMPROVEMENTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

(1) S.A.T. scores have improved significantly. During the 1982-83 school year the average Page score was a total of 900. In contrast, the 1983-84 school year average Page score was a total of 1058.

(2) School attendance has improved dramatically: during the 1981-82 school year there was an aggregate of 1,222 student excused absences, an aggregate of 1,089 unexcused absences and a total number of 878 times students were tardy. Under the House Page School during the 1983-84 school year attendance was 97.43 percent. Tardiness has been reduced to almost zero.

(3) The average G.P.A. for entering students was 3.572 in the Fall of 1984; while the first quarter grades were on average, a 3.33 G.P.A.

(4) The House Page School gained accreditation by the Middle States Association in January of 1984.

(5) In October of 1984, the House Page School was accepted for membership in the Association of Independent Schools of Greater Washington, thereby providing the school professional recognition within the Washington, D.C. community.

(6) The Page School has joined in a cooperative effort with the American Association for Counseling and Development to provide counseling services to the Pages.

(7) For the first time, Pages are receiving credit for their work experience as Pages.

(8) For the first time, during the summer of 1984, there was a Summer Page Education Program providing classes in the Washington Seminar and in the use of computers.

(9) There is a sustained relationship maintained with the Pages' home schools, and students' academic progress is reported home and to the Doorkeeper each mid-quarter.

(10) The curriculum has been expanded to include four languages taught instead of two, and three levels of Mathematics.

(11) All instructors have a minimum of a Masters Degree.

In addition, there is now a cooperative relationship among Page School staff, Page Supervisors and Page Residence Hall staff.

Dr. Knautz and his staff, the Page Supervisors, the Page Residence Hall staff and the Doorkeeper and his staff have all succeeded in infusing the new Page Program with a truly caring spirit and a high morale. A great debt of graditude is owed to them for this.

III. Page Revolving Fund

In May of 1984, the Page Residence Hall and Meal Plan Revolving Fund had unobligated funds remaining in 1983 of $69,151.70. This represented amounts withheld from Pages that resided in the Page Residence Hall, less expenses paid for meals to the Senate Restaurant and amounts allocated for recreation for the Pages.

On May 14, 1984, the Page Board, pursuant to House Resolution 64 (97th Cong.), authorized the Clerk, the Honorable Benjamin J. Guthrie, to disburse $69,151.70 to the U.S. Treasury.

IV. Health Care

The Democratic and Republican Personnel Committees both implemented new application procedures which went into effect for Pages appointed in the Fall of 1983. The new applications are much more comprehensive than in the past, especially with respect to the health of the Page applicant. Each applicant must obtain a physical from a physician, as well as, fill out a questionnaire concerning his or her health. This information is then forwarded to Dr. Cary, the Attending Physician to the Congress.

Also, the application now includes a medical release signed by a Page applicant's parent or guardian. This release facilitates emergency treatment at local hospitals here and corrects a serious previous problem in obtaining emergency treatment for Pages.

V. Recreational Facilities

The House Page School has contracted with Saint Cecilia Academy so that House Pages may use the school's gymnasium two nights a week from November to March.

Unfortunately, all other efforts to provide additional athletic facilities for the Pages have been unsuccessful, in spite of great effort by many individuals.

VI. Concluding Statement

On November 30, 1982, the House of Representatives Page Board was created and given a special mandate to implement the recommendations of the Speaker's Commission on Pages to improve the House Page Program. The Page Board has in good faith endeavored to the best of its ability to fulfill that special mandate.

98TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 234

[Report No. 98–282]

Providing for appointment and education of House pages.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 16, 1983

Mr. MINISH (for himself and Mr. FAZIO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

JUNE 29, 1983

Reported with an amendment, referred to the House Calendar, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the resolving clause and insert the part printed in italic]

JUNE 29, 1983

Considered, amended, and passed

RESOLUTION

Providing for appointment and education of House pages.

Resolved, ~~That notwithstanding any provision of law, and until otherwise provided by law, the House of Representatives Page Board shall furnish, by contract or otherwise, educational services and related items for pages in accordance with this resolution.~~

~~SEC. 2. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), a page—~~

(1) shall be in the eleventh grade;

(2) shall serve for a full academic year; and

(3) shall not have served as a summer page.

(b)(1) Notwithstanding subsection (a)(2), an unforeseen vacancy during an academic year may be filled, but no appointment to fill such a vacancy shall be for a period of less than two months.

(2) An individual who has completed the tenth grade and has not begun the twelfth grade may serve as a summer page. An individual who has served as a congressional page at any time during each of any two semesters shall not be eligible to serve as a page.

SEC. 3. As used in the first section and section 2 of this resolution, the term—

(1) "academic year" means a regular school year, consisting of two semesters;

(2) "page" means a page of the House of Representatives, but such term does not include a fulltime, permanent employee of the House of Representatives with supervisory responsibility for pages;

(3) "congressional page" means a page of the House of Representatives or the Senate; and

(4) "summer page" means a page serving other than during an academic year for a period determined by the Doorkeeper of the House of Representatives.

~~SEC. 4. The proviso in the text under the heading "EDUCATION OF SENATE AND HOUSE PAGES" in title I of the Urgent Deficiency Appropriation Act, 1947 (2 U.S.C. 88b), shall not apply to minors who are employees of the House of Representatives.~~

~~SEC. 5. There shall be paid from the contingent fund of the House of Representatives such sums as may be necessary to carry out this resolution.~~

~~SEC. 6. (a) This resolution shall take effect on the date on which this resolution is agreed to, except that section 2 shall apply with respect to pages appointed after that date.~~

~~(b) Any individual who, on the date on which this resolution is agreed to, is receiving education under the proviso referred to in section 4 shall be entitled to receive such education through the earliest of the following: the last day of that person's employment, the last day of the school year involved, or June 30, 1983.~~

That notwithstanding any provision of law, and until otherwise provided by law, there shall be paid out of the contingent fund of the House of Representatives such amounts as may be necessary to enable the House of Representatives Page Board to furnish, by contract or otherwise, educational services and related items for pages in accordance with this resolution.

SEC. 2. The page program shall consist of the two terms of the academic year plus a summer term.

SEC. 3. (a)(1) Except as provided in subsection (b), a page serving during an academic year—

(A) shall be in the eleventh grade; and

(B) shall serve for one full term or two full terms.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (b), a page serving during the summer term—

(A) shall have completed the tenth grade; and

(B) shall not have begun the twelfth grade.

(b)(1) An unforeseen vacancy occurring in a page position during an academic year may be filled, but no appointment to fill that vacancy shall be for a period of less than two months.

(2) An individual who has served as a congressional page at any time during each of any three terms shall not be eligible to serve as a page.

SEC. 4. As used in this resolution, the term—

(1) "academic year" means a regular school year, consisting of two terms;

(2) "page" means a page of the House of Representatives, but such term does not include a full-time, permanent employee of the House of Representatives with supervisory responsibility for pages; and

(3) "congressional page" means a page of the House of Representatives or the Senate.

SEC. 5. This resolution shall take effect on the date on which this resolution is agreed to, except that section 3(a)(1)(A) and section 3(b)(2) shall apply to terms beginning after November 30, 1983.

98TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 279

Limiting use of certain educational facilities with respect to congressional employees who are minors other than pages.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 21, 1983

Mr. MINISH (for himself, Mr. FAZIO, and Mr. MYERS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

---

RESOLUTION

Limiting use of certain educational facilities with respect to congressional employees who are minors other than pages.

Resolved, That the proviso in the text under the heading "EDUCATION OF SENATE AND HOUSE PAGES" in title I of the Urgent Deficiency Appropriation Act, 1947 (2 U.S.C. 88b), shall not apply to any minor who is an employee of the House of Representatives or to any educational facility under the House of Representatives Page Board.

O